A REVIEW OF THE Affairs of *FRANCE*:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *News-Writers* and *Petty-Statesmen*, of all Sides.

Saturday, February 24. 1705.

ADVICE from the Scandal. CLUB.

THESE last two Papers, were purposely design'd to make Acknowledgments, and to repair Injuries, if any had occasionally been done, and our last made a beginning.

But having sent Notice of our just Intentions to the Persons to whom we thought some Justice due, they have Generously prevented us, by acquitting the Author of the suppos'd Injury, and desiring we would proceed to a more Entertaining Employment. This last Paper of all, is therefore taken up in some Cases, that being more than ordinarily pressing, deserv'd a place in the most Publick of our Undertaking.

The first of these, take as follows.

Gentlemen,

A *Certain* U——r, *not a Mile from* Southwark, *had, in his Possession, two Bonds of a very good Friend, and near Relation of his, of nine Years standing; which Bonds, were satisfied, in the Year,* 1696. *to which time Interest was paid half Yearly; and at the Satisfaction of these Bonds, desiring to have them Cancelled, he said, he cou'd not find them; but when they came to his Hands, he promised, upon his Honour, to Cancel the same: They had Correspondency together, till the* 2*d of* June, 1702. *at which time he gave him a Note under Hand, That there remain'd nothing due to each other; but since is gone aside, and has made over these two Bonds to another Person, who is going now to put them in Suit; but from* 1696, *to this present time, has never asked Interest, nor said he had such Bonds by him. Now,* Gentlemen, *I earnestly beg your Opinion of this Case in the next* Review, *and you will much oblige,*

Batson's *Coffee-house,* *Your humble Servant,*
Feb. 20. 1704. S. S.

As the Societies profess'd Foundation is laid upon a Resolution of Discouraging and Exposing Vice, and things Scandalous, they have heartily and sincerely express'd themselves, and some People think too freely, on the Vices and Errors of common Practice; but since they came in their other part to launch into the great Ocean of Trade, they discover so many Gulphs of Villany, so many hidden Rocks of Trick, Cheat, and abominable Frauds, in and upon which, Innocent Families suffer Shipwreck, split, and are undone, that they cannot pass them over in Silence.

And as here (by way of Parentheſis) 'tis neceſſary to tell the Readers, That the Importunity of ſome Friends, and the Generoſity of others, will not ſuffer the Author to lay down this Paper; ſo 'tis noted here, to let thoſe Gentlemen know, to whom he is ſo much obliged, That if he does go on to a Second Volume of this Work, he purpoſes to examine throughly the *Engliſh* Trade, the Reaſons and Remedies of its preſent Misfortunes and Diſcouragement; and, at leaſt, as far as he is able, offer at the Remedies of our preſent Growing and Ruinous Practices in Trade.

If in this he finds it neceſſary to reprove ſome Prodigies of Fraud, Cheats, and Shams of a more than common Braſs, he is ſure to *offend no Honeſt Man*; and for the reſt, 'tis all their own, they are welcome to take it among them.

As to the Caſe before them, tho' the Society cannot but blame the Gentleman's Credulity, in ſuffering his Bonds to lie ſix Year Uncancell'd and *Unenquir'd for*, after they were fully Diſcharg'd; yet the Action in the U———r, whoever he is, *for we know no Names*, can merit nothing, but what is agreeable to the Character of moſt Villanous.

And here the Society cannot but look behind them, and ſay a word or two to thoſe Calm Gentlemen, who frequently ſpeak of theſe Things *thus, you had better let theſe Things alone*; 'tis none of your Work, *It does but create you Enemies*, and *raiſe Clamour* at the reſt of your Deſign; *'tis nothing to you*, &c.

Let ſuch read this horrid Caſe; had the Society Expos'd juſt ſuch a Caſe as this, in which the unhappy Author of this, was a particular Sufferer; this preſent Complainant, perhaps, had been rouz'd to Enquire after his Bonds, and had ſav'd this Loſs; and they heartily ask his Pardon, *That they Conceal'd a Rogue*, and omitted to do an Honeſt Man that Service; to ſay, *It is none of our Buſineſs*, is to ſay, 'Tis not my Buſineſs when I have been Rob'd, to acquaint the next Traveller, Sir, *Take Care of your ſelf, there's a Gang of Rogues before*. Gentlemen, in Trade there are Rogues, Thieves, and Pickpockets, every Day upon *Change*, have a care who you truſt; but above all, have a care when you pay your Debts, to *Cancel your Bonds*.

If this be none of our Buſineſs, the Society ask the Gentlemen's Pardon for giving them the Warning, and when *they are Cheat'd*, let them thank themſelves.

As to the Caſe before us, 'tis a Black one indeed; and, if our Judgment may paſs for any thing, *merits the Gallows equally*, with all the more open barefac'd Robberies, practis'd on the Road.

But the Society cannot but take Notice of a particular Misfortune here, *viz.* That the Law ſhould be capable of being Imploy'd in, and be Acceſſary to the Compleating ſo *flaming a Violence*.

It may be objected, The Perſons to whom theſe Bonds are aſſign'd, may be equally Injur'd; but the Society *are againſt that*, and Anſwer, It ſeems more probable, *they are Confederate*; becauſe if they were not, they acted very ſuſpiciouſly, and at beſt *weakly*, in that they did not firſt tender the Bonds to the Perſon, who, it ſeems, was eaſie to be found, and know if it was a real Debt, and if he own'd them.

This had been Juſtice; and as the Succeſs of the whole Fraud turns upon this *one Omiſſion*, they are of Opinion they have no Injury from the Bondſman, if they loſe their Money; nor is it enough to ſay here, they were not *bound in Law*, to do ſo———But as to the fair part, and agreeable to the Practice of Trade, they were bound to do it, both on their own Account, as well as on the Account of the Perſon who was bound.

'Tis plain, had this been done, the Fraud had been prevented, and an Honeſt Man had not been Abus'd; wherefore the Society recommend it to all the Gentlemen in Trade, who do not think themſelves above the Hint, that they would always preſent every Bond or Bill tranſferr'd to them, to the Original, or at leaſt, to the laſt Endorſer, before they accept it———This would be a means to prevent a Multitude of Frauds, would Anticipate the Offers of Counterfeits, and Mens valuing themſelves upon Obligations that have been Diſcharg'd, and ought to be Cancell'd; Multitudes of Cheats would be ſmother'd in the Breaſts of the Wicked Contrivers, and Fair Traders, would act with more ſafety in the midſt of a Sharping Tricking Generation.

But that the Law now ſhould joyn in this Robbery, *for I can call it no leſs*, is a very hard Caſe, and Extorts from the Society this Concluſion.

That if a Court of Equity does not relieve him, againſt ſuch a Notorious Cheat, provided he can make a Proof of the Payment, there muſt

must be some *Deficiency in our Laws*, which leaves the Subject open to Oppression, merits the Cognizance of *them that made those Laws*, and who have a Right both to Amend and Explain them.

THE following Letter, is of such Consequence, and the Gentleman's Importunity so just, that the Society could no longer refrain the putting it in the Conclusion of this Work.

Gentlemen,

" THE Incloſed Caſe being, I believe, the " very firſt of its Kind, and ſuch a Barbarity, that I never yet heard of its Fellow; " I ſend it you, reſolving not to act therein " without your Advice, which, I deſire, may " be in your next *Review*, if poſſible, as fol" lows.

Gentlemen,

MIſſing my Friend, the Unfortunate Husband mentioned in your Review *of the* 30th *of* January *laſt, at* Robin's *Coffee-houſe, and at the* Swan Tavern, *and alſo in* Draper's-Garden, *where we often met, I enquired at his Lodgings in* K—g-ſtreet, *where the Old Witch'd* Jezabel, *his Wife, told me, I could not ſpeak with him, that being all I could get from her; but ſtill miſſing him at the ſaid Places, upon further inquiry, at laſt a Maid Servant of his informed me, She had too much Reaſon to believe, her Miſtreſs had wepan'd him into a Mad-houſe, but where, ſhe could not tell; and tho' I have uſed my utmoſt Endeavours, cannot poſſibly find out where ſhe has Kidnap'd him to: Therefore, for God ſake,* Gentlemen, *in your next* Saturday's Review, *or at leaſt before you leave off Writing, Adviſe me what Method I, as a true Friend to this moſt Unfortunate Husband, ought to take with this Old Dry Devil of a Wife; for tho' he was Melancholy and Diſcontented, occaſioned by his Miſerable Marriage State, yet not ſo bad to be ſo uſed: And if this Notorious Unheard of Trick is not exemplarily puniſhed, every Ill-deſigning Wife, will, without aſſiſtance of a Judicial Power, get rid of their Husbands at their Pleaſure. The Truth hereof will appear by the under written Affidavit, which his Maid will Swear to, as ſoon as we have your Direction. I hope this extraordinary Occaſion will plead my Excuſe for this Trouble.*

Febr. 19. 1704. *Your Admirer,* John Friendſhip.

" MArgaret H——maketh Oath, That " on *Munday* Morning, the 12th of " this Inſtant *February*, my Maſter *A. R.* (with " whoſe Wife I now live) went from Home a" bout Ten a Clock, and has not ſince return" ed; but on *Thurſday* laſt, a Man in a Longiſh " Black Wig, came to my Miſtreſs, with whom " ſhe was ſhut up for ſome time; and I over" heard her ask the ſaid Man, How her Hus" band behaved himſelf? To which the Man " Anſwer'd; He fell at firſt into a great Paſſi" on, and Hollowing, and making a very great " Noiſe; but (he ſaid) after his Servant had " given him about Twenty Laſhes, he was " quiet, and ever ſince has continued very " Sullen. And this Deponent ſays, When Peo" ple enquire after my Maſter, my Miſtreſs tells " ſome, He is gone into the Country for his " Health; and to others, That he can't be " ſpoke with; which is all this Deponent can " at preſent ſet forth.

The Society greatly ſurpriz'd at the Barbarity of this Caſe, and hardly thinking it had been feazible, after ſo Eminent an Example had been formerly made, in the Caſe of Mr. *N*——t; which, 'tis ſuppos'd, the Town has been Inform'd of, they Reſolv'd,

1. That the Woman, *for Wife we cannot call her*, and W—e, it ſeems, ſhe was to this very Gentleman before, deſerves to be had in Deteſtation of all the World, to be hiſs'd out of all Society, and to be poſted at the Door of her Habitation, that Honeſt Women may go on t'other ſide of the Way, for fear of being ſeen in her Company.

2. That the Scandalous Example ought to be buried in Silence, that Foreign Nations may not know ſuch horrid things are practis'd in this *Proteſtant* profeſſedly Reform'd Country.

3. As to preſcribing Methods to Manage, Puniſh, and make an Example of this Old Brute, and to retrieve the Misfortune of this Abus'd Gentleman, the Author of this omits them here, on no other Score, but that the Execution of them may not be prevented; and if the Gentleman ſending this Account, pleaſes to give the Society Notice, where to Write to him, they doubt not to adviſe him how he ſhall both Deliver the Gentleman, if the Fact be true, and this She-Devil be made a Nuſance to her Native Country, and be Treated accordingly.

THE following Letter, as it affects a particular Article of Trade, by it ſelf, ſhould have had a large Anſwer, but the preſent Concluſion of this Work, will not allow it; however,

we thought fit to Insert the Letter, referring the Reply to another Occation.

Gentlemen,

YOUR *speedy Answer is desired, to these two Queries following*——

First, "Have not the *Mercers Wives*, the "*Lacemens Wives*, the *Milliners Wives*, &c. "——Acted very Prudently, in putting "themselves into Mourning for Foreign Prin-"ces——Particularly this Winter, for the "Death of the Dutchess of *Holstein Got-"torp?*

And Secondly, "Whether they will not act "with just as much Prudence, to put *themselves* "into Mourning for the Death of the Queen "of *Prussia*, especially considering it falls out "in the Spring time of the Year——

Febr. 22. 1704. *Your humble Servants*, A. B. L. I. J. C.

THE Gentleman who sent a Letter to the Society, Sign'd *A. A.* is desir'd to send Word how he may be wrote to, the Author not thinking it can be to his Advantage to have his Case he made Publick.

HAving by an Advertisement in the *Review*, *N.* 94. desir'd the Gentlemen who sent a Story from *Southwark*, to give Notice how they may be wrote to: These are to signifie, That we have two Letters from several Hands sent to Claim the Answer, which giving some Suspicion of a Design upon the Society, they desire that the Persons, who are really concern'd, would send notice how they may be Wrote to; in the same Letter, signifying the Substance of the Business, by which Token they shall be sure not to be Imposed upon.

THE Case of a Daughter's Duty to an Unreasonable Tyrannical Father.

THE Case of Mr. *A. B. C.* and his Drunken Mistress.

AND Mr. *S. L. F. R.* about Inter-marriages, are all Answer'd in the *Supplement*, *N.* 4. which is now Finishing, and will be Published the next Week, without fail.

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